

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

*Plaintiff,*

v.

**Civ. No. 1:19-cv-00122**

\$14,800.00 IN UNITED STATES CURRENCY,

*Defendant-in-rem.*

**VERIFIED COMPLAINT FOR FORFEITURE *IN REM***

Plaintiff, United States of America, brings this complaint in accordance with Supplemental Rule G(2) of the Supplemental Rules for Certain Admiralty or Maritime Claims and Asset Forfeiture Actions, and alleges as follows:

**NATURE OF THE ACTION**

1. This is a civil action to forfeit and condemn to the use and benefit of the United States of America property involved in violations of the Controlled Substances Act and 18 U.S.C. § 1952 that is subject to forfeiture pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 881(a)(6) and 18 U.S.C. §981(a)(1)(C).

**DEFENDANT *IN REM***

2. The defendant *in rem* consists of the following:

i. Fourteen Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$14,800.00) in United States Currency, (hereafter referred to as “Defendant Currency”).

3. The Defendant Currency was seized by the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection on September 26, 2018, in the District of New Mexico.

4. The Defendant Currency is now, and during the pendency of this action will be, in the jurisdiction of this Court.

**JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

5. The United States District Court for the District of New Mexico has subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1345, 1355(a) and 1356.

6. Venue for this civil forfeiture action is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1355 and 1395, as acts or omissions giving rise to the forfeiture took place in this district and the property is found in this district. Upon the filing of this complaint, the Defendant Currency will be arrested by execution of a Warrant for Arrest *In Rem* in the District of New Mexico.

**FACTS**

7. On September 26, 2018, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Senior Patrol Agent Montellano was assigned to an inspection checkpoint on Interstate 25, north of Las Cruces, New Mexico.

8. At approximately 8:25 P.M. a red Mercedes Benz entered the inspection area. The driver, later identified as Alec Daniel Barbour. Barbour declared U.S. citizenship, but was pale and rigid and did not know the last name or address for the person he claimed to have visited in Las Cruces.

9. During Barbour's questioning the odor of marijuana emanated from the car. Barbour consented to a search of the car's trunk. During the inspection, the Agent noticed several large duffel bags, which smelled of marijuana and contained marijuana residue. In addition, there was a plastic vacuum sealed bag. Barbour claimed that he used the duffel bags for camping. Barbour was referred to the secondary inspection area.

10. In the secondary inspection area, Agent J. Rivera obtained consent from Barbour to conduct a canine sniff of the car. The canine alerted. Agent J. Rivera asked Barbour whether he had narcotics or large amounts of currency in the car. Barbour responded that there was a small amount of currency in the console. In the console was a large brick of U.S. Currency wrapped in rubber bands and a cellular flip phone.

11. Barbour said the flip phone was not his and that he obtained the currency from printing T-shirts. The canine later alerted to the currency.

12. Barbour has a criminal history of arrests and convictions for possession of Marijuana for sale.

13. A count of the U.S. currency totalled \$14,800.00.

**FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

14. The United States incorporates by reference the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 13 as though fully set forth.

15. Title 21, United States Code, Section 881(a)(6) subjects to forfeiture “[a]ll moneys, negotiable instruments, securities, or other things of value furnished or intended to be furnished by any person in exchange for a controlled substance or listed chemical in violation of this subchapter, all proceeds traceable to such an exchange, and all moneys, negotiable instruments, and securities used or intended to be used to facilitate any violation of this subchapter.”

16. Defendant Currency was furnished, or intended to be furnished, in exchange for a controlled substance, or constitutes proceeds traceable to such an exchange, or was used or intended to be used to facilitate a violation of the Controlled Substances Act and is thus subject to forfeiture to the United States pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 881(a)(6).

**SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

17. The United States incorporates by reference the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 19 as though fully set forth.

18. The 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) provides, in part, for the forfeiture of any property, real or personal property which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to an offense constituting a “specific unlawful activity” (SUA) as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 1956(c)(7), or conspiracy to commit such offense.

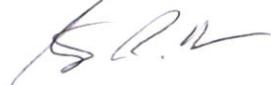
19. 18 U.S.C § 1952 prohibits interstate and foreign travel or transportation with the intent to (1) distribute the proceeds of any unlawful activity; (2) commit any crime of violence to further any unlawful activity; or (3) otherwise promote, manage, establish, carry on, or facilitate the promotion, management, establishment, or carrying on, or any unlawful activity. Unlawful activity is defined in 18 U.S.C. § 1952(b).

20. Defendant Currency is the proceeds of a violation of 18 U.S.C § 1952 or is the proceeds traceable to such property and, is thus subject to forfeiture to the United States pursuant to 18 U.S.C § 981(a)(1)(C).

WHEREFORE: Plaintiff seeks arrest of Defendant Currency and forfeiture of same to Plaintiff, determination of the validity and priority of claims of the Claimants and any Unknown Claimants to the Defendant Currency, costs and expenses of seizure and of this proceeding, and other proper relief.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN C. ANDERSON  
United States Attorney



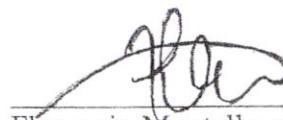
STEPHEN R. KOTZ  
KRISTOPHER JARVIS  
Assistant U.S. Attorneys  
200 N. Church Street  
Las Cruces, NM 88001  
(575) 522-2304

28 U.S.C. § 1746 DECLARATION

I am a Special Agent with the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection who has read the contents of the Complaint for Forfeiture *In Rem* to which this Declaration is attached; and the statements contained in the complaint are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I declare under penalty of perjury and the laws of the United States of America that this Declaration is true and correct, except as to matters stated on information and belief, and as to those matters I believe them to be true.

Dated: 2-12-19



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Florencio Montellano, Senior Patrol Agent  
Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs  
and Border Protection

## I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

United States of America

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff \_\_\_\_\_

(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

## DEFENDANTS

\$14,800.00 IN UNITED STATES CURRENCY

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant \_\_\_\_\_

(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

## II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 U.S. Government Defendant	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

## III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

	PTF	DEF		PTF	DEF
Citizen of This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Citizen of Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Foreign Nation	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury – Medical Malpractice	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157
<b>REAL PROPERTY</b>	<b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b>	<b>PRISONER PETITIONS</b>	<b>PROPERTY RIGHTS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
		<b>Habeas Corpus:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/ Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	<b>LABOR</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark
		<b>Other:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of	<b>SOCIAL SECURITY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g))
			<b>IMMIGRATION</b>	<b>FEDERAL TAX SUITS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609
			<input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	

## IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

## V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 Original Proceeding	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Removed from State Court	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Remanded from Appellate Court	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Reinstated or Reopened	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 Transferred from Another District (specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 Multidistrict Litigation
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Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):

21 U.S.C. § 881(a)(6) and 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C)

Brief description of cause: \_\_\_\_\_

## VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION

DEMAND \$

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

## COMPLAINT:

UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.

JURY DEMAND:  Yes  No

## VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions):

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE

SIGNATURE OF

ATTORNEY OF RECORD

2/13/2019



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_

APPLYING IFP \_\_\_\_\_

JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_

MAG. JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_